

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-01 L-03 FRB-03
OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1532
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD
SUBJECT: UNCTAD: GROUP B MEETING ON INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR
COMMODITIES (IPC)

REFERENCE: (A) GENEVA 9795, (B) GENEVA 9954

1. GROUP B MET IN GENEVA ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, TO HEAR A
REPORT FROM OUTGOING COORDINATOR (GORDON BARRASS, UK) ON
INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON COMMON FUND, PRELIMINARY VIEWS OF
UNCTAD SECRETARIAT (MCINTYRE) REGARDING COMMODITY ISSUES FOR
UNCTAD V AND TO DISCUSS GROUP B PREPARATIONS FOR JULY 10-14
MEETING OF AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE (AHIC).
(LATTER BEING REPORTED IN SEPTTEL--REF B).

2. BARRASS' OBSERVATIONS ON THE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE
COMMON FUND WERE CONSISTENT WITH THOSE IN REFTEL A. ACCOR-
DING TO BARRASS, G-77 REPS FEEL NO FURTHER PROGRESS CAN BE
MADE IN INFORMAL TALKS SINCE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DEVELOP A
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G-77 POSITION OUTSIDE THE NEGOTIATING CONTEXT WHICH IS THE
ONLY CONTEXT IN WHICH THE MORE RADICAL OF THE G-77 CAN BE
BROUGHT CLOSER TO A COMPROMISE. BARRASS ALSO ATTRIBUTED
MORE POSITIVE GROUP B ATTITUDE TOWARD RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS
THAN THAT PREVAILING AT PARIS HIGH LEVEL GROUP MEETING TO A
RECOGNITION THAT G-77 UNLIKELY TO REVEAL ANY CHANGE OF
POSITION AND TO DIFFICULT POSITION OF SECGEN COREA. HENCE

HE BELIEVES GROUP B IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT RESUMED NEGOTIATING SESSION LATER IN 1978 EVEN IF OUTLOOK FOR SUCCESS NOT THAT GOOD. (COREA WILL REPORTEDLY SUGGEST TO AHIC DATES BETWEEN OCT 1 AND DEC 1 DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES). BARRASS DID FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT G-77 HAS ACCEPTED IDEA OF LARGE PROPORTION OF FUNDS FOR FIRST WINDOW COMING THROUGH ICA'S AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AS BASIS FOR SECOND WINDOW. AMBASSADOR HESSEL OF FRANCE (WHO WAS OFFICIALLY NAMED AS BARRASS' SUCCESSOR) OPINED THAT HE SENSED A MOVEMENT TOWARD A PRAGMATIC APPROACH LINKING EVOLUTION OF THE COMMON FUND WITH INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY DISCUSSIONS.

3. UNCTAD SECRETARIAT'S PREPARATIONS FOR UNCTAD V ARE IN A VERY PRELIMINARY STAGE. OBVIOUSLY THE SECRETARIAT CANNOT BE VERY SPECIFIC ABOUT THE NATURE OF COMMODITY DISCUSSIONS IN MANILA AS DEVELOPMENTS ON THE COMMON FUND AND INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY DISCUSSIONS WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. MCINTYRE CURRENTLY PLANS TO SUBMIT A MAJOR REPORT COVERING FOUR AREAS: (1) REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN COMMODITY FIELD SINCE UNCTAD IV, (2) PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IPC, (3) REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF COMPENSATORY FINANCING INCLUDING WORLD BANK AND IMF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WORK AND (4) PRELIMINARY FINDINGS ON DEVELOPMENTAL ASPECTS OF COMMODITY POLICY. THE LATTER WILL BE BASED ON THE COUNTRY STUDIES CURRENTLY UNDERWAY AND STUDIES OF HOW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN MARKETING AND IN-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CREASED PROCESSING. THE SECRETARIAT HAS NOT YET DECIDED HOW THESE IDEAS WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO AGENDA ITEMS TO BE RECOMMENDED TO THE NEXT TDB. (MCINTYRE INDICATED COUNTRY STUDIES WILL BE USED FOR INTERNAL SECRETARIAT PURPOSES ONLY AND WILL NOT BE RELEASED PARTICULARLY SINCE SECRETARIAT DOES PLAN TO TAKE CRITICAL LOOK AT DOMESTIC POLICIES.) VANDEN HEUVEL

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